

Please fund VRS in adequate dollars. Video relay interpreters must be of the highest quality. They can't be compared to text relay operators except in very broad terms. They must be at the top of their game professionally, able to work with D/deaf people from all over the world, and possess skills that require years of work/training to develop. Without adequate pay, the quality of the service will suffer.

This will have a negative impact on accessibility for Deaf people and the hearing people/businesses with whom they interface. Some of these D/deaf individuals are not able to carry on business via text relay due to lack of fluency in English. Others save time and have increased inconvenience in using something many of us take for granted-the phone (a device which has created a can/not not communication divide between those who can hear and those who can not.) I know these are grim times budget-wise. Still, this service is a valuable one and deserves the funding to make it viable to the users. Thank you for your consideration.